

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY THE CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED
STATES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES

NEWS RELEASE

On October 31, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission reported that the Fall River in Marquette County, Michigan had been treated with lampricide. The Fall River operation completes the initial series of chemical treatments of Lake Superior lamprey-producing streams in which many millions of larvae were destroyed. A total of 51 streams in the United States and 30 in Canada have been treated since 1958. Most of the treatments were carried out in 1959. Among the larger streams treated are the Tahquamenon and Ontonagon in the United States and the Kaministiquia, Michipicoten, and Goulais in Canada. A small start was made this year in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, where four streams were treated, and in Lake Michigan where seven streams were disposed of. Treatments are carried out by staff of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries under contract with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Positive evidence of a decline in the population of sea lamprey will come from the continued operation of electrical barriers on a number of Lake Superior streams. Numbers of spawning sea lamprey taken in 1961 may be somewhat reduced but a substantial decrease is not likely because most of those taken at the barriers will have come from stocks which

moved to the lake in 1959 before their parent streams were treated.

Therefore, the full effects of the chemical program cannot be evident until the spawning run in 1963.

The destruction of young lamprey in streams is expected to reduce lamprey predation on the lake trout that remain in Lake Superior, but the trout population has been so damaged that an immediate recovery cannot be expected. The build-up of trout stocks will be particularly slow in some areas because of the scarcity of spawning fish. Plantings of hatchery-reared trout are needed to aid the recovery of this population.

Steps to restore the lake trout in areas where they have been drastically reduced have been undertaken by federal, state, and provincial agencies co-operating in a joint program co-ordinated by the Commission. Hatchery-reared trout have already shown a high rate of survival after planting and they will likely play an important part in the recovery of the fishery.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada in 1954. The formulation and implementation of a program to eradicate or minimize sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes is one of its major responsibilities.

October 31, 1960
Ann Arbor, Michigan